

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:***1-4. (canceled)***

5. (new) A disposable diaper, comprising a liquid-permeable topsheet, a liquid-impermeable backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core disposed therebetween so as to form a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending therebetween, and further comprising longitudinally opposite front and rear end flaps and transversely opposite side flaps which are formed by at least said topsheet extending outward from peripheral edges of said absorbent core,

a pair of barrier cuffs being elastically extendable in a longitudinal direction of said diaper and being bonded, in an extended condition, to an inner surface of an associated one of said side flaps;

each of said barrier cuffs having longitudinally opposite front and rear ends, and inner and outer side edges extending in parallel to each other between said front and rear ends;

said front and rear ends of each of said barrier cuffs being respectively bonded to said front and rear end flaps;

each of said barrier cuffs has, in said crotch region, said outer side edge bonded to said associated side flap and said inner side edge bonded to said associated side flap along a line defined between said outer side edge and an associated edge of said absorbent core;

each of said barrier cuffs has, in a transverse cross-sectional view and in the crotch region,

a first wall section formed with a plurality of elastic members and which first wall section extends inwardly from the outer side edge of said barrier cuff, an outermost one of said elastic members being spaced and distinct from said bonding of the outer side edge of said barrier cuff and the associated side flap, and

a second wall section intersecting the first wall section inwardly of an innermost one of said elastic members and extending downward to the inner side edge of said barrier cuff,

wherein a dimension of said first wall section in a transverse direction thereof is larger than that of said second wall section in said transverse direction, and

said first and second wall sections, together with a portion of said associated side flap defined between said outer and inner side edges, describe a hollow space of a substantially triangular shape, under contraction of said barrier cuff in the longitudinal direction; and

portions of said barrier cuffs and said side flaps participating in the formation of said triangular hollow spaces are air-permeable;

wherein an outer longitudinally extending edge of the backsheet terminates beneath the inner side edge of one of the barrier cuffs and is adhesively attached to an extension sheet having an inner edge at the area of attachment and an outer edge, and which extension sheet extends transversely from the inner edge outward for attachment to said one of the barrier cuffs at the outer edge thereof.

6. (new) The diaper of claim 5, wherein the extension sheet has an air-permeability higher than that of the backsheet.

7. (new) The diaper of claim 5, wherein said plurality of elastic members include at least three elastic members, the innermost elastic member has an extension stress less than an extension stress of the outermost elastic member, and an extension stress of the elastic member or

members disposed between the innermost and outermost elastic members is equal to or less than the extension stress of the innermost elastic member.

8. (new) The diaper of claim 7, wherein the extension stress of the elastic member or members disposed between the innermost and outermost elastic members is less than the extension stress of the innermost elastic member.

9. (new) A disposable diaper, comprising a liquid-permeable topsheet, a liquid-impermeable backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core disposed therebetween so as to form a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending therebetween, and further comprising longitudinally opposite front and rear end flaps and transversely opposite side flaps which are formed by at least said backsheet extending outward from peripheral edges of said absorbent core,

a pair of barrier cuffs being elastically extendable in a longitudinal direction of said diaper and being bonded, in an extended condition, to an inner surface of an associated one of said side flaps;

each of said barrier cuffs having longitudinally opposite front and rear ends, and inner and outer side edges extending in parallel to each other between said front and rear ends;

said front and rear ends of each of said barrier cuffs being respectively bonded to said front and rear end flaps;

each of said barrier cuffs has, in said crotch region, said outer side edge bonded to said associated side flap and said inner side edge bonded to said associated side flap along a line defined between said outer side edge and an associated edge of said absorbent core;

each of said barrier cuffs has, in a transverse cross-sectional view and in the crotch region, a first wall section formed with a plurality of elastic members and which first wall section

extends inwardly from the outer side edge of said barrier cuff, an outermost one of said elastic members being spaced and distinct from said bonding of the outer side edge of said barrier cuff and the associated side flap, and

 a second wall section intersecting the first wall section inwardly of an innermost one of said elastic members and extending downward to the inner side edge of said barrier cuff,

 wherein a dimension of said first wall section in a transverse direction thereof is larger than that of said second wall section in said transverse direction, and

 said first and second wall sections, together with a portion of said associated side flap defined between said outer and inner side edges, describe a hollow space of a substantially triangular shape, under contraction of said barrier cuff in the longitudinal direction; and

 portions of said barrier cuffs and said side flaps participating in the formation of said triangular hollow spaces are air-permeable;

 said topsheet is bonded to the inner side edges of said barrier cuffs along bonding lines and terminated at said bonding lines without further extending into the hollow spaces; and

 an air-permeability of said backsheet in portions thereof participating in the formation of said hollow spaces is about same as in a remainder of said backsheet which does not participate in the formation of said hollow spaces.

10. (new) The diaper of claim 9, wherein said plurality of elastic members include at least three elastic members, the innermost elastic member has an extension stress less than an extension stress of the outermost elastic member, and an extension stress of the elastic member or members disposed between the innermost and outermost elastic members is less than the extension stress of the innermost elastic member.